

I applaud the students who are working hard to excel and in doing so, making their families, communities, and State proud. I also want to commend the administrators, teachers, and staff of MSSM who are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students and are helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and engaged citizens.

I am pleased that the U.S. News and World Report has recognized the achievements of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, and I congratulate the entire community for this outstanding achievement. Having grown up in Northern Maine, I could not be more proud of what these students and this faculty have achieved.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the comments of the senior senator from Maine. I too am proud to congratulate the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, MSSM, for its 13th-place showing in this year's U.S. News and World Report on high school rankings. In addition, U.S. News ranked MSSM first in New England and third in the United States among magnet schools. This impressive achievement is a testament to the exceptional caliber of the school's students, faculty, and staff.

Founded by the Maine State Legislature in 1995, MSSM is a residential magnet school that specializes in science and mathematics education. It is the only school of its kind in New England. MSSM serves a diverse student body made up of young people from across the State of Maine and around the world. Graduates of MSSM are prepared for rigorous postsecondary programs and have gone on to notable success in fields as diverse as academia, engineering, public service, and the military.

It bears mentioning that when the school was proposed during my first year as governor, I was opposed to funding it for budgetary reasons. During a time of fiscal restraint, I was uncertain of the wisdom in devoting funds to a new school. Boy, was I wrong—MSSM has become a real gem, and I have never been so glad to have been wrong.

The U.S. News ranking reflects the school's ongoing commitment to excellence. Just last year, MSSM entered into a learning partnership with the University of Maine at Presque Isle that affords MSSM students the opportunity to earn college credit for select coursework. This collaborative approach is precisely the kind of innovative thinking that forges connections between high schools and postsecondary institutions and ensures that students are able to envision clear educational pathways for themselves.

The world-class education offered in Limestone would not be possible without the talented teachers, administrators, and staff who have fostered a genuine community of learning and explo-

ration and who have dedicated themselves to educating the next generation of innovative and well-rounded scholars. The foundation of any successful school lies in the dedication of its staff, and I commend the many individuals who lead and support this outstanding institution.

In its 18 years of existence, MSSM has become a point of pride for the residents of Limestone and for the whole State of Maine. I am delighted to offer my hearty congratulations to all members of the MSSM community, and I look forward to hearing of the school's continued success in the years to come.●

#### COMMENDING UTAH'S ACADEMY NOMINEES

● Mr. LEE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize eight exemplary Utahns and future officers in the U.S. military. Each of them will begin their education at a military academy this fall.

Jonson Henry, graduating from Park City High School, will be attending the Naval Academy. An accomplished runner, he was captain of his cross-country team and participated in track and field. He is an avid outdoorsman and an accomplished musician. He was also an AP Scholar with Distinction.

Phillip Lowry, a Weber High School graduate, will be attending the Naval Academy. Phillip was an Eagle Scout, captain of his rugby team, and accomplished in Jujitsu and mixed martial arts. He was also an accomplished musician and an AP Distinguished Scholar. His father is currently Active Duty with the Army and is serving in Afghanistan.

Amanda Ley, from Viewmont High School and Northwestern Preparatory School, will be attending the Air Force Academy. Amanda was a member of the National Honor Society and earned her Academic Letter. She was captain of the swim team and actively volunteered with South Davis Community Hospital. Her father is an Air Force veteran.

McKenna Cox graduated from Mountain View High School and will be attending the Air Force Academy. McKenna was a student body officer and a member of the National Honor Society. A great example of a student athlete, she was Academic All-State in soccer and was the captain of the basketball team, the softball team, and the cross-country team. She organized food drives for the Utah Food Bank and care packages for the military.

William Estes, from Dugway High School and attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was a National Honor Society and participated in ice hockey, baseball, track and field, and was Academic All-State in basketball. He was also band president and participated in the JROTC. His father is currently serving in the Army.

Russell Landes will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Russell attended the American Leadership Academy, where he was student body president. He was captain of the wrestling team and also participated on the football and track teams. He also earned his Eagle Scout award.

Benjamin Lemon, from Bountiful High School and the University of Utah, will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Benjamin was a member of the National Honor Society and earned his Eagle Scout. He was captain of the football team and participated in wrestling and the track and field team. His brother also served honorably in the armed services, where he was wounded in the service of his country.

Thomas Maddox, a graduate of Juan Diego Catholic High School, will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was an outstanding scholar and captain of the lacrosse and ice hockey teams. He has over 75 hours of community service. He was student government class officer and founder and president of the Patriots Club.

One of my greatest honors as a Senator has been to get to know and nominate each of these young men and women. I know that our Nation's future is bright in the hands of these exemplary individuals who have distinguished themselves amongst their peers.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR NATHAN KLINE

● Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I wish to honor the remarkable service of a great Pennsylvanian to our Nation's defense and its veterans. Maj. Nathan Kline, U.S. Air Force, Retired, served for nearly half a century in our country's Armed Forces. After enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942, he served in highly hazardous positions as a bombardier and navigator on a B-26 Marauder. His 65 air combat missions included the D-day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. Incredibly, he survived after his aircraft was shot down twice during the campaign in Europe. For his actions, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and 10 Air Medals. After the war, the French Ambassador welcomed Major Kline into the coveted Legion d'Honneur for his service in the liberation of France.

Major Kline did not seek a quiet postwar civilian life. He continued his military service in the Reserves while working in support of the veterans' community. His advocacy on behalf of veterans and their families became a lifelong endeavor. Major Kline was a founding member of the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council. In this capacity, he raised funds to provide scholarships to deployed servicemembers' children, managed assembly and shipment of care packages and helped veterans to find employment.

In honoring Major Kline, we recognize his commitment to service during times of war and peace.